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Letter dated 21 October 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 19 October 2001 from Mr. Naji Sabri, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the increasing number of armed assaults being carried out by Kuwaiti naval units on Iraqi fishing boats in Iraq's territorial waters and states that patrols are interfering with Iraqi fishermen, beating them, stealing their personal possessions and tearing up their official documents, particularly in the Khawr Abd Allah channel and near buoys 12 and 13 inside the boundaries of Basrah Governorate.

The Minister states that the assaults being committed by Kuwaiti military personnel in Iraq's territorial waters are acts of wanton aggression against the Republic of Iraq and against Iraqi citizens that occur in conjunction with other practices of the Kuwaiti authorities such as their active and direct participation in the daily aggression being committed by United States and British warplanes against Iraq from Kuwait's territory, their interference in the internal affairs of Iraq and their provision of support and funding to terrorist groups for the purpose of undermining Iraq's stability and jeopardizing its security and the safety of its citizens.

The Minister appeals to you to intervene in order to halt these acts of aggression, which are in flagrant violation of the terms of the relevant United Nations resolutions and the provisions of the Charter, and he states that the Kuwaiti side bears full responsibility for them.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed A. **Al-Douri**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 21 October 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I should like to inform you that armed assaults on Iraqi fishing boats by Kuwaiti naval units in Iraq's territorial waters have increased greatly in recent times. Armed Kuwaiti naval patrols are intercepting Iraqi fishermen, beating them, stealing their personal possessions and tearing up their official documents. These assaults take place in particular in the Khawr Abd Allah channel and near buoys 12 and 13, inside the boundaries of Basrah Governorate. I provide you hereunder with examples of such violations.

1. On the night of 12/13 September 2001, a Kuwaiti military vessel intercepted Iraqi boat 4173/Basrah near the Khawr Abd Allah navigation channel (near buoy 13). They demanded the identification documents of the fishermen and the boat's papers. Kuwaiti military personnel then tore up the personal documents of the Iraqi fishermen and threw them into the sea.

2. On 13 September 2001, a Kuwaiti military cabin cruiser with five armed persons on board intercepted Iraqi boat 3365/Basrah in the Bawwabat area. They seized identity documents and the boat's official papers, and they tore them up and threw them into the waters of the Gulf.

3. On 15 September 2001, four armed Kuwaiti military personnel on board a military boat assaulted a number of Iraqi seamen as they were fishing near buoy 12 in the Khawr Abd Allah channel, which is inside the boundaries of Basrah Governorate. They took from them the official fishing licences, the boat's papers and the seamen's identity documents and proceeded to tear them up.

4. On 15 September 2001, a Kuwaiti military boat carrying four armed persons assaulted the Iraqi fishermen on boat 1072/Basrah near buoy 13 in the Khawr Abd Allah waterway and took away their fishing licences as well as the fishermen's personal documents and threw them into the sea.

5. Five Iraqi seamen who had been fishing on 18 September 2001 on boat 3375/Basrah at the end of the Khawr Abd Allah channel near buoy 13 reported that Kuwaiti military personnel in two boats had assaulted them and had stolen from them the boat's papers and their fishing licences.

The assaults on our fishermen in our territorial waters by Kuwaiti military personnel are acts of wanton aggression against the Republic of Iraq and against Iraqi citizens that occur in conjunction with other practices of the Kuwaiti authorities such as their active and direct participation in the daily aggression being committed by United States and British warplanes against Iraq from the territory of the State of Kuwait, their interference in the internal affairs of Iraq and their provision of support and funding to terrorist groups for the purpose of undermining Iraq's stability and the safety of its citizens. These unlawful practices place regional peace and security in the greatest jeopardy, and the Kuwaiti side bears full legal

responsibility for them. We appeal to you to intervene in order to halt these acts of aggression, which are in flagrant violation of the terms of the relevant United Nations resolutions and the provisions of the Charter.

(*Signed*) Naji **Sabri**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq